

## Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 NEA-10 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 EB-11 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 NIC-01 MC-02 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USSS-00

INRE-00 DRC-01 /172 W

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R 261642Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8324

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, MCAP, GW, IS

SUBJECT: GERMAN REACTION TO US ALERT

1. AT LUNCH OCTOBER 25 SPD SECRETARY GENERAL BOERNER AND SPD DEPUTY WISCHNEWSKI, LONG KNOWN AS BEN WISH FOR HIS FREQUENT TRAVELS TO THE MIDDLE EAST, EXPRESSED TO ME THEIR COMPLETE AGREEMENT WITH OUR SUPPORT OF ISRAEL AND ADDED THAT DIFFERENCES IN OPINION REGARDING WAYS TO AID ISRAEL AND STABILIZE THE SITUATION THERE SHOULD NOT OBSCURE THE UNDERLYING AGREEMENT ON ENDS.

2. BOTH THEN SAID HOWEVER THAT THE ALERTING OF US FORCES, WHICH HAD THEN JUST BEEN ANNOUNCED WOULD CAUSE GREAT UNEASINESS AMONG THEIR COUNTRYMEN AND INCREASE THE ANXIETY ALREADY CAUSED BY TALK OF STOPPING THE FLOW OF ARAB OIL TO COUNTRIES SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL. WISCHNEWSKI QUICKLY ADDED THAT HE VIEWED THE THREAT OF AN OIL EMBARGO AS NOTHING MORE THAN A THREAT BUT REPEATED THAT  
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IT ADDED NEVERTHELESS TO THE GENERAL UNEASINESS.

3. THE VARIOUS FACETS OF THE CONFLICT ARE DOMINATING THE NEWS MEDIA WITH THE US ALERT CURRENTLY RECEIVING THE MOST ATTENTION. FOR THE MOST PART THE COVERAGE IS SOBER AND FACTUAL THOUGH THE DAILY TABLOID BILD HAS A HEADLINE OCTOBER 26 READING "THE WORLD IS IN FEAR OF WAR" AND A DIE WELT HEADLINE SAYS IT IS THE "GRAVEST CONFRONTATION OF THE SUPER POWERS SINCE CUBA." ELECTRONIC MEDIA REPORTING IS ALSO HEAVY WITH COMMENT FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF OCTOBER 25 NOTABLY LESS STRIDENT AND MORE REFLECTIVE THAN THE GENERAL TONE PRECEEDING IT. WE HAVE NOTED ONE INSTANCE OF A SERIOUS REPORTING INACCURACY, A STATEMENT BY BBC THAT SOME SEVENTH ARMY UNITS HAD MOVED TOWARD THE EASTERN BORDER. LATER REPORTS CORRECTED THE ERROR, BUT THE INCIDENT WAS INDICATIVE OF THE HAIR TRIGGER REACTION OF NEWS MEDIA IN COVERING THE US ALERT.

HILLENBRAND

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, MOBILIZATION  
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**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 26 OCT 1973  
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**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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